National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Restoration of the Mississippi Delta: Lessons from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

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Abstract:

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showed the vulnerability of coastal communities and how human activities that caused deterioration of the Mississippi Deltaic Plain (MDP) exacerbated this vulnerability. The MDP formed by dynamic interactions between river and coast at various temporal and spatial scales, and human activity has reduced these interactions at all scales. Restoration efforts aim to re-establish this dynamic interaction, with emphasis on reconnecting the river to the deltaic plain. Science must guide MDP restoration, which will provide insights into delta restoration elsewhere and generally into coasts facing climate change in times of resource scarcity.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise

Extreme Weather Event: Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Freshwater, Ocean/Coastal, Other Geographical Feature

Other Geographical Feature : Delta; Wetland

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified